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GENERAL NOTES.

The Black Tern at Prince Edward Island.—As far as I can learn, the Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*) has never been reported from the Atlantic coast north of Grand Manan Island, where three specimens were taken "in the latter part of August, 1879," as recorded by Mr. Ruthven Deane (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. V, p. 63). I have in my collection a young male of this species which I shot September 13, 1887, at Tignish, Prince Edward Island.—FRANK H. HITCHCOCK, *Washington, D. C.*

Calidris arenaria in Massachusetts in Winter.—While on a shooting trip at Nantucket Island, Mass., I saw on Dec. 13, 1891, a Sanderling which alighted for a moment within a few feet of where I was and then flew away. As I have before stated (Auk, VII, 294), some of these birds regularly winter in this locality.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*

Late Breeding of Columbigallina passerina.—On November 3, 1891, I saw a pair of Ground Doves just able to fly. They were accompanied by their parents. This species must breed regularly up to November, for on October 19, 1886, I took a set of two slightly incubated eggs on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

A Belated Migrant.—On November 26, 1891, I saw and positively identified a Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). I had just shot a Wild Turkey, and had scarcely walked ten steps with the Turkey when, quite to my surprise, a Bobolink flew up from a patch of weeds. I could have easily shot the bird, but did not care to. Previous to November 26 the weather was very inclement, there having been ice four times.—ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.*

Junco hyemalis in Eastern Massachusetts in June.—On May 23, 1891, I was much surprised to find a male Snowbird (*Junco hyemalis*) feeding in a pasture at some distance from my home, in company with two Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella socialis*). On May 27 he was in the same pasture, again in company with two Chippers. Owing to the distance, my next visit to the place was on June 7, when I found things going on as before. Evidently the Snowbird intended to spend the summer there.

June 13 Mr. Bradford Torrey accompanied me, and we then found the Junco engaged in feeding young birds in a nest looking exactly like a typical Chipping Sparrow's nest, placed in the crotch of a small limb of a red cedar some twelve feet from the ground. After waiting a few minutes we saw a female Chipper feed the same young, and then the case waxed exceedingly interesting, for it seemed to be one of interbreeding between birds of different genera. To our disappointment, however, a male Chipper finally appeared, who showed much interest in subsequent proceedings. But he never once brought food, while the Snowbird and female Chipper did so constantly. Any casual observer would undoubtedly have declared them the parents of the brood. When, at last, I climbed the tree to get a look at the young birds, Junco made far more protest than did either of the Sparrows; in short, during all our visit, he behaved precisely as the father of the young birds would naturally do.

Of course we decided to obtain the young when they should become of proper size and plumage. But this proved impracticable. The birds got out of the nest, and although I with others saw the Snowbird feed them repeatedly after this, we were unable to get one of them for examination. It must be said, however, that, so far as we could observe with the aid of

a good glass, they looked exactly like ordinary young Chipping Sparrows.

Junco remained in the same vicinity during all of June, being seen on several dates, as also being heard to sing freely; he was also seen July 14. Whenever seen he was invariably accompanied by several Chippers, probably the two adults and the family of young. In August I sought him vainly. Repeated search failed to reveal him, and at last I gave up the quest.

The gist of the story is this: *Junco hyemalis* haunted one field in this town from late in May until the middle of July; during part of this time he assisted in feeding a brood of young Chipping Sparrows. Whether he was the real father or only the godfather of these young Sparrows is an interesting question which, I deeply regret to say, I cannot answer.—E. F. HOLDEN, *Melrose, Mass.*

Distribution of the Species of *Peucæa* in Cooke County, Texas.—The eastern third of the county is covered with timber, principally post oak and black jack on the upland, with hickory, ash, and elm on the streams. The soil is sandy. In this timber belt is found *Peucæa æstivalis backmanii*. I have never seen this bird in this county in winter.

The central part of the county embraces the Grand Prairie, which is undulating and slopes gently to the southeast, the underlying chalky limestone producing a rich, stiff, almost black soil, and forming an escarpment to the north and west. In this prairie only have I found *Peucæa cassini*. It is only seen during the breeding season, and it is then of irregular occurrence.

Under the scarp of the above-described limestone is a sandy soil grown with post oak and black jack, but in a dwarfed condition, while there is a growth of bramble (chaparral) not seen in the eastern portion of the county. In this part of Cooke County alone have I seen *Peucæa ruficeps eremæca*. I have seen the young on the wing on May 31, and have also seen one pair on December 27.

All three have distinctive songs, but only *cassini* sings on the wing, and it does not always do so. I once shot one singing in the crack of a worm fence.—GEO. H. RAGSDALE, *Gainesville, Texas.*

***Thryothorus ludovicianus* in Massachusetts.**—On September 27, 1891, I shot in my garden in Cambridge, Mass., a Carolina Wren. The bird was an adult male and was in fine condition. He had been in the neighborhood for nearly a week and possibly longer, and was frequently to be heard calling or singing. The spot seemed to be to his taste, for my own and the adjoining gardens afford an abundance of shade trees and shrubbery, while, separated only by a high board fence, is an extensive pile of firewood and odds and ends of lumber the attractions of which he seems to have been the first to discover.

As far as I am aware this species has been captured in New England, beyond the limits of the Carolinian fauna, but three times before: at